

I am truly concerned about the ability of Sinclair Broadcasting to force their member stations to broadcast the Kerry movie, particularly so close to the elections and even more concerned that this is being billed as news, not infotainment. In either case, this is unacceptable given a) this is essentially unpaid political advertising and b) it's proximity to the elections c) that there is no opportunity for a televised rebuttal prior to the election to clear-up any miscommunications or falsehoods in the piece and d) the fact that Sinclair is repeatedly showing unacceptable political bias in their broadcast decisions, such as the former Nightline episode.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.